

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66609

DRAFTED BY: AF/C:CUTLER:OSM

APPROVED BY: AF/C:CUTLER

AF/P:POPE SUBS

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R 202349Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 251317 ACTION PRETORIA
JOHANNESBURG DTD 14 NOV

QTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SA (OTTA AY, DAVTD B)

SUBJECT: U.S. ROLE IN SOUTH AFRICA PEACE BID CITED BY
AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT

FOR ASST. SEC. EASUM

1. IN LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST
THURSDAY, DAVID OTTAWAY SAID "U.S. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES"
GAVE HIM FILL-IN ON BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORT OF SOUTH
AFRICA AND SEVERAL KEY BLACK AFRICAN STATES TO REACH A
PEACEFUL ACCOMMODATION AND AVOID LOOMING CONFLICT IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA. OTTAWAY SAID EFFORT CONTINUING DESPITE
"APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT" CREATED BY TUESDAY'S GENERAL
ASSEMBLY VOTE SUSPENDING SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP IN U.N.

2. OTTAWAY ARTICLE SAID DRAMATIC CHANGES TAKING PLACE
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IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SET IN MOTION BY APRIL 25 COUP IN

LISBON, FORCING "SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS TO PUT FORWARD BY YEARS A TIMETABLE FOR POLICY CHANGES." POINTING TO RECENT SPEECHES BY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING VORSTER, AND BY KAUNDA, OTTAWAY STATED: "AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN A POSITION TO KNOW SAY THAT THE SPEECHES BY VORSTER AND KAUNDA WERE MORE OR LESS 'ORCHESTRATED' AND REPRESENT FIRST PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF THE SECRET ACCOMMODATION EFFORT."

3. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM OTTAWAY ARTICLE DEALING WITH U.S. ROLE IN CURRENT PEACE EFFORT:

"AT SAME TIME, TOP AMERICAN POLICY-PLANNERS ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PRESS SOUTH AFRICA TO ABANDON ITS MILITARY SUPPORT FOR WHITE-RULED RHODESIA AND TO GET OUT OF NAMIBIA, THESE SOURCES INDICATE.

"ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS DONALD EASUM IS IN SOUTH AFRICA RIGHT NOW DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES WITH OFFICIALS OF THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT AND IT APPEARS THAT THE UNITED STATES MAY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FORTHCOMING DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS.

"A PROCESS THAT COULD LEAD TO A LASTING ACCOMMODATION HAS BEEN UNDER WAY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, WITH SECRET CONTACTS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE BLACK AFRICAN STATES OF ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, ACCORDING TO THESE U.S. SOURCES. OTHER KEY BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS SUCH AS ZAIRE AND NIGERIA ARE SAID TO BE SUPPORTING THE CURRENT EFFORT. ITS SUCCESS DEPENDS LARGELY ON SOUTH AFRICA'S WILLINGNESS TO ABANDON ITS MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE WHITE GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA, TO GIVE THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA ITS INDEPENDENCE AND TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN ITS POLICY OF APARTHEID OR RACIAL SEPARATION. BUT THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS THAT PRETORIA IS READY TO TAKE THESE STEPS IN RETURN FOR ACCEPTANCE IN BLACK AFRICA AND AN END TO BLACK AFRICAN STATES' SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE PROPOSED BY NATIONALIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUPS SEEKING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE.....

"THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS THUS PUSHING ON A DOOR THAT IS ALREADY OPENING WIDE. BUT THE DECISION TO PRESSURE SOUTH AFRICA TO IMPLEMENT RAPID CHANGES NONETHELESS WOULD GIVE THE UNITED STATES A NEW PUBLIC IMAGE IN BLACK AFRICA.

"U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE EASUM, WHO IS ON A FIVE-WEEK TOUR OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA AND IS NOW IN SOUTH AFRICA, HAS ALREADY SIGNED THE CHANGING ATTITUDE IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE CONTINENT. A FEW DAYS AGO HE SAID WASHINGTON WAS COUNTING ON SEEING CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY TOWARD RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AS WELL AS IN APARTHEID, AND SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THESE ISSUES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS. U.N. RESOLUTIONS ON RHODESIA AND

NAMIBIA SHOULD BE PROMPTLY IMPLEMENTED, HE (EASUM) SAID.

"THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE ITS OWN REASONS FOR WANTING TO MAKE SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTABLE TO BLACK AFRICA. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WOULD ENABLE THE U.S. NAVY TO USE SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS NOW OFF-LIMITS TO ITS SHIPS...."

4. OTTAWAY SAID VICE ADMIRAL JOHNSON WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT WASHINGTON AS PART OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN YEAR-LONG CAMPAIGN "TO GET THE U.S. INTERESTED IN USING ITS PORTS."

5. OTTAWAY, AGAIN REFERRING TO "THESE SOURCES," MENTIONED NYERERE "QUIETLY EXERCISING HIS INFLUENCE" WITH FRELIMO TO MAKE PEACE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND FRELIMO LEADERS ASKING U.S. FOR "SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ECONOMIC AID."

6. "U.S. DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS" CITED BY OTTAWAY ARE NOT KNOWN TO AF. NO QUESTIONS ON OTTAWAY ARTICLE ASKED AT NOON BRIEFING THURSDAY BUT SEVERAL BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS CALLED AF/P.

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DENTS CALLED AF/P.

PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR SPOKESMAN SAID IN PART:

"IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN OUR POLICY TO OPPOSE VIOLENCE AS A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. WE CONSISTENTLY HAVE SUPPORTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE ANY PRESENT PLANS TO FILL A SPECIAL ROLE IN THAT REGARD.

"WITH REGARD TO REPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONTACTS WITH BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WE HAVE READ REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT BUT WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT. THAT IS FOR THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO DO."

KISSINGER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE251317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/C:CUTLER:OSM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740329-0354
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741142/aaaabjtb.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. ROLE IN SOUTH AFRICA PEACE BID CITED BY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, (OTTAWAY, DAVID B)
To: PRETORIA JOHANNESBURG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005